

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following claims for the same-numbered claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for parsing documents in query processing, said method comprising:

producing at least one index of a document written in a mark-up language, wherein said mark-up language comprises any of HTML and XML;

corresponding said index to said document;

scanning said document using a processor; ~~and~~

using a parser that is external to said index to selectively skip portions of said document based on instructions from said index[[.]], wherein the skipped portions of said document comprise portions irrelevant to said query, and wherein said index comprises a plurality of elements representing textual categories of said query; and

saving said textual categories into a buffer, wherein said buffer is external to said index, said parser, and said processor,

wherein said instructions match said elements to said query and if said elements do not match said query, then said parser uses said index to skip the portions of the document corresponding to unmatched elements,

wherein said each of said elements corresponds to a position in said document,

wherein said position comprises an end position,

wherein said index uses said end position as a marker for determining where to resume scanning said document upon skipping said portions of said document,

wherein said elements comprise sub-elements representing textual sub-categories of said

query, and

wherein said sub-elements updates said position in said document upon skipping said portions of said document and resuming scanning of said document.

2-12. (Cancelled).

13. (Previously Presented) A system for parsing documents in query processing, said system comprising:

at least one index corresponding to a document written in a mark-up language, wherein said mark-up language comprise any of HTML and XML;

a processor operable for scanning said document; ~~and~~

a parser that is external to said index and operable for selectively skipping portions of said document based on instructions from said index[[]]; and

a buffer operable for saving said textual categories,

wherein the skipped portions of said document comprise portions irrelevant to said query,

wherein said index comprises a plurality of elements representing textual categories of said query,

wherein said instructions match said elements to said query and if said elements do not match said query, then said parser uses said index to skip the portions of the document corresponding to unmatched elements,

wherein said each of said elements corresponds to a position in said document,

wherein said position comprises an end position.

wherein said index uses said end position as a marker for determining where to resume scanning said document upon skipping said portions of said document,

wherein said elements comprise sub-elements representing textual sub-categories of said query, and

wherein said sub-elements updates said position in said document upon skipping said portions of said document and resuming scanning of said document.

14-24. (Cancelled).

25. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by computer, ~~tangibly embodying~~ comprising a program of instructions executable by said computer to perform a method for parsing documents in query processing, said method comprising:

producing at least one index of a document written in a mark-up language, wherein said mark-up language comprises any of HTML and XML;

corresponding said index to said document;

scanning said document using a processor; and

using a parser that is external to said index to selectively skip portions of said document based on instructions from said index[[.]], wherein the skipped portions of said document comprise portions irrelevant to said query, and wherein said index comprises a plurality of elements representing textual categories of said query; and

saving said textual categories into a buffer, wherein said buffer is external to said index, said parser, and said processor,

wherein said instructions match said elements to said query and if said elements do not match said query, then said parser uses said index to skip the portions of the document corresponding to unmatched elements,

wherein said each of said elements corresponds to a position in said document,

wherein said position comprises an end position,

wherein said index uses said end position as a marker for determining where to resume scanning said document upon skipping said portions of said document,

wherein said elements comprise sub-elements representing textual sub-categories of said query, and

wherein said sub-elements updates said position in said document upon skipping said portions of said document and resuming scanning of said document.

26-36. (Cancelled).

37. (Currently Amended) A system for efficiently parsing documents in query processing, said system ~~comprising~~ consisting essentially of:

an index corresponding to a document written in a mark-up language, wherein said index comprises a plurality of elements representing categories of a query;

a processor operatively connected to said index and adapted to scan said document;

a parser that is external to said index and said processor and adapted to selectively skip portions of said document based on instructions from said index; and

a buffer that is operatively connected to said processor and adapted to save said textual

categories, wherein said buffer is external to said index, said parser, and said processor.